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MANUFACTURE AND INSTALLATION OF MINIATURE AUTOMATED TELLER MACHINE

DESCRIPTION

Related Applications

This application claims the benefit of U.S. provisional patent application Serial No. 60/252,648, filed November 22, 2000.

Technical Field

The present invention relates to an automated teller machine (ATM) and, more particularly, to the manufacture and installation of wall-mounted miniature automated teller machines (ATMs) for mounting the ATM to and through a wall.

Background of the Invention

Conventional large ATMs are deployed on a floor, usually behind a wall with the front showing through the wall. For ATMs that are fully located within a customer space, thinner ATMs have been deployed since floor space is a valuable commodity and is scarce in certain retail locations. These thinner ATMs are sometimes referred to as pedestal ATMs, and can be bolted to the floor to secure it, and keep safe the money inside the ATM. However, there are still risks that the pedestal ATMs can be dislodged from the floor, and carried away. In addition, these pedestal ATMs can not be accessed by the machine owner for cash refilling, paper loading and report printing, without the owner appearing in the customer area and jeopardizing their safety when cash refilling and balancing is needed to be performed. For example, in a currency exchange, the owner would have to come out from behind a bullet proof environment to refill the cash and balance the ATM for pedestal ATMs. Accordingly, the machine owner may be robbed while refilling the ATM with cash. Alternatively, the machine owner may have to remove all patrons and close the retail location before refilling the ATM with cash, thereby losing potential business in the process.

Traditionally, miniature ATMs have not been deployed in or behind an interior wall, and have not been suspended behind such wall, without the use of any pedestal. Nor have traditional machines allowed the ATM owner or operator easy access to the rear keypad for performing management functions, such as running transaction reports or ATM cash balance reports, from inside a cashier's cage.

The present invention is provided to solve problems with such devices and others.

Summary of the Invention

The present invention provides a miniature automated teller machine (ATM). The ATM has a housing having a front keypad connected to the housing, and a rear keypad connected to the housing. The front keypad has a front screen attached to the front keypad, and the rear keypad has a rear screen attached to the rear keypad.

A door is hingedly connected to the housing. Preferably, the door includes a handle and comprises a steel reinforcement material.

Preferably, the housing includes a mounting angle attached to the housing for securing the housing within a wall. Preferably, the mounting angle is attached to each side of the housing for securing the housing within the wall. Preferably, the housing comprises a steel reinforcement material.

Preferably, the rear keypad is substantially identical to the front keypad, and the rear keypad performs substantially the same function as the front keypad. Alternatively, the rear keypad performs a substantially different function than the front keypad.

The rear screen allows an operator of the ATM to perform management functions without the management functions being viewed on the front screen by ATM cardholders.

Preferably, the rear screen is substantially identical to the front screen, and the rear screen performs substantially the same function as the front screen. Alternatively, the rear screen performs a substantially different function than the front screen.

Other features and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following specification taken in conjunction with the following drawings.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Fig. 1 is a partial, front perspective view of a miniature automated teller machine (ATM) according to the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a front view of a front portion of a housing for the ATM of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a rear perspective view of the ATM housing of Fig. 2, with the door in an open position;

Fig. 4 is a rear view of the ATM of Fig. 1, with the door in an open position;

Fig. 5 is a side perspective view of the ATM of Fig. 1, with the door in a substantially closed position;

Fig. 6 is a rear, top perspective view of the ATM of Fig. 1, with a mounting angle attached to the rear portion of the housing for securing the housing within a wall; and

Fig. 7 is side view of the ATM of Fig. 6, after securing the housing within the wall.

Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiment

While this invention is susceptible of embodiments in many different forms, there is shown in the drawings and will herein be described in detail a preferred embodiment of the invention with the understanding that the present disclosure is to be considered as an exemplification of the principles of the invention and is not intended to limit the broad aspect of the invention to the embodiment illustrated.

Referring now in detail to the Figures, Figs. 1-7 illustrate a wall-mounted miniature automated teller machine (ATM) 10. The ATM 10 is mounted to and through a wall 12 (see Fig. 7).

As shown in Fig. 1, the ATM 10 has a housing 14 having a front portion 16 and a rear portion 18. Preferably, the housing 14 comprises a steel reinforcement material. The front portion 16 is fixedly attached to the rear portion 18 prior to installation of the ATM 10 in the wall 12. Preferably, the front portion 16 is welded to the rear portion 18. However, it is likewise contemplated that the front portion 16